

September 23, 2013

Mister chairman and members of the committee, my name is Barbara Rush and I live at 720 Holter here in Helena. I would like to thank you for holding this meeting about Common Core and for allowing me to speak today.

I am a retired teacher of 30 years from the Helena School District. I have been aware of Common Core for about 2 years now and have been researching and following it since that time. The meeting today is not about whether Common Core is a National Curriculum, but clearly it is, with President Obama hiring 10,000 master teachers to teach Common Core teaching methods. Standards do not have tests and specific teaching strategies. This meeting is not about whether National Curriculums are effective but clearly they are not, you might use China as an example. This meeting is not about whether the claims that Common Core will make students college and career ready, prepare them for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and are more rigorous, have any basis in truth, though we know there has been no research whatever to back up these claims. This meeting is about the process of mandating curriculum in Montana and our school districts ability to meet the Common Core financial obligation.

According to Montana code, to mandate curriculum in the state of Montana, the state board of education must submit the curriculum to the legislature and have a financial analysis. The Common Core curriculum was mandated by the Montana State Board of Education in November 2011 and did not have a financial analysis until January 2012. The financial analysis reports that many school districts in the state of Montana do not feel they have the resources to implement Common Core and purchase all of the computers and software that that entails. In Helena we spend 95% of our general fund on staff and utilities, I can not see where the Helena district has extra money out of the 5% that is left in the general fund for everything else, to fund Common Core.

Montana code 2-3-201 declares that public boards, commissions and agencies deliberations will be conducted openly. I have attached the list of meetings held prior to the adoption of Common Core by the Montana State Board of Public Education to my testimony. As you can see, what the state board held were professional meetings for educators, and there were only twelve of those for the whole state. There were no town hall meetings or publicly noticed meetings for parents. When it came time for the legislature most of the legislators didn't even know what Common Core was.

Common Core is a curriculum that was written behind closed doors by a private company and then patented. If Montana schools find difficulty with Common Core they would have to go to the private company Achieve, to ask for changes.

Education & Local Gov't Committee  
September 23, 2013

Exhibit 8

One has to wonder why a program of this magnitude would be forced on all of Montana schools when it is a huge experiment. Why wasn't there time to vet and research Common Core to see if it actually would produce more college and career ready students? Why weren't town halls held to see how parents felt about project learning and open-ended questions as opposed to direct instruction? Why was this program developed behind closed doors? Why wasn't there time for a real fiscal analysis and legislative review? Why were pleas from school districts that don't have the resources for Common Core ignored? Why would we experiment with the education of our Montana students? Thank you for your time today.

Barbara Rush  
720 Holter  
Helena



## Board of Public Education

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February 24, 2012

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Ms. Barbara Rush  
720 Holter Street  
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Ms.

Thank you for writing to the Board of Public Education to express your concerns regarding the adoption of the Montana Common Core Standards. The Board adopted these standards in November of 2011, following two years of review and outreach activities throughout Montana.

Enclosed is a copy of the Montana Common Core Outreach Log, which illustrates some of the outreach activities that have occurred throughout the state during the past two years regarding the Montana Common Core Standards. The Board of Public Education solicited public comment on these standards throughout this two year period and conducted a formal hearing on the standards on October 24, 2011.

Thank you again for providing input to the Board of Public Education and for your 30 years of service as an educator in Helena.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Patty Myers in cursive script.

Patty Myers, Chair

Handwritten signature of Pete Donovan in cursive script.

Peter Donovan, Executive Secretary

Peter Donovan, Executive Secretary

Enclosure: Montana Common Core Standards Outreach Log



# Completed Montana Common Core Standards Outreach Log

Date	Location	Presentation	Participants
October 22, 2009	Helena	Common Core State Standards	Helena Schools Leadership Team 10
October 22, 2009	Whitefish	Common Core State Standards	Whitefish Teachers 35
February 10, 2010	Helena	Common Core State Standards	A-Z Curriculum Meeting
March 10, 2010	Helena	Common Core State Standards	CSPAC
April 7, 2010	Adobe Connect	Common Core State Standards	Montana Educators
April 23, 2010	Helena	Common Core State Standards	A-Z Curriculum Directors
May 6, 2010	Adobe Connect	Common Core State Standards	Montana Educators
July 13, 2010	Adobe Connect	Common Core State Standards	Montana Educators
August 18, 2010	Kalispell	Common Core State Standards	Northwest Reading Council Conference 15
September 21, 2010	Adobe Connect	Common Core State Standards	Montana Educators
October 4, 2010	Adobe Connect	Common Core State Standards	Montana Educators
October 13, 2010	Adobe Connect	Common Core State Standards	Prairie View Curriculum Consortium, Kim Stanton, and 20 educators
October 14, 2010	Helena	Common Core State Standards	Montana Council of Deans' of Education
October 21, 2010	State Reading Conference, Great Falls	Common Core State Standards	State Reading Conference 50+ participants
October 21, 2010	MEA-MFT Educators' Conference, Helena	Teachers Talk about Standards	15 conference participants
October 28, 2010	Anaconda High School	Standards, Curriculum, Instructional Materials	Angela McLean, Rose White and 11 curriculum members
November 1, 2, 4, 5, 2010	Butte, Bozeman, Havre, Lewistown	Standards and Curriculum	Montana Small Schools Alliance, Dan Rask and 79 (41,14,16,8) educators
November 8, 2010	Great Falls	Common Core State Standards	Golden Triangle Curriculum Consortium, Diana Knudson and 70 educators

# Completed Montana Common Core Standards Outreach Log

Date	Location	Presentation	Participants
December 4, 2010	Helena	Common Core State Standards	MEA-MFT 45 educators
January 19,-20, 2011	Billings	OPI Assessment Conference	35 educators from across the state
March 10, 2011	Adobe Connect	Common Core State Standards	Link sent out through official email
March 10, 2011	Helena	Common Core State Standards Update	CSPAC
March 30, 2011	Helena	Common Core Standards	Montana Council of Deans' of Education
April 14, 2011	Miles City	Common Core State Standards	Montana Small Schools Alliance 30 educators
May 11, 2011	Hamilton	Common Core and Survey of Enacted Curriculum	10 Middle and High School teachers and principal; Hamilton School District
June 8-9, 2011	Libby	Common Core State Standards assistance	Libby administrators and K-12 curriculum team- 20 participants
July 12-13, 2011	Poplar	Common Core State Standards assistance with curriculum work	Poplar K-12 curriculum team 14 participants
August 10-13, 2011	Helena	Montana Common Core Standards	44 Montana Educators

## Completed Montana Common Core Standards Outreach Log

Date	Location	Presentation	Participants
September 17, 2011	Great Falls	Montana Common Core Standards	Montana PTA annual meeting 25 participants
October 20-21, 2011	Missoula	Montana Common Core Standards	MEA-MFT 1,200 attendees estimated
November 10-11, 2011	Helena	Montana Common Core Standards & facilitator training	62 Montana Educators
December 1-2, 2011	Helena	Montana Common Core Standards & facilitator training	251 Montana Educators December 1 130 Montana Educators December 2 for facilitator training